

Slayer Wins Mercy

James Hickman, who killed his landlord after a tenement fire in which four children were burned to death, pleaded guilty to manslaughter yesterday and was put on probation for two years.

Hickman originally was tried on a murder charge, but the jury disagreed on a verdict last Nov. 15 in Criminal Court. Another trial was set for Jan. 5, but was moved up to yesterday when Hickman expressed a desire to plead guilty to a manslaughter charge.

The defendant, a steel worker, is 43. His children died in a fire at 1733 Washburne Ave. on Jan. 16, 1947. Six months later,



JAMES HICKMAN

Hickman shot the landlord, David Coleman, in front of Coleman's home at 2720 Prairie Ave.

His attorneys told Judge Rudolph F. Desort that Hickman had been informed that Coleman set the fire. They mentioned that he had worked hard throughout his life to raise nine children.

On the recommendation of both prosecution and defense, Judge Desort put Hickman on probation and ordered his

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FINAL SPORTS

NOV. Not Paid Sales
Daily Average
480,027

LARGEST CITY CIRCULATION IN EVENING FIELD

EXTRA

DAD OF 4 FIRE VICTIMS: FREE KILLER OF LANDLORD

Story on back page

seen walking toward... attending a football game Sept. 19.

Landlord's Killer Gets Trial Delay

James Hickman, 43, of 7805 S. Kolin av., whose four children died in a tenement fire last January, will be examined by two psychiatrists before he goes to trial for the murder of his landlord.

The murder trial was scheduled to open yesterday before Judge Charles E. Byrne in Criminal Court. Judge Byrne continued the hearing to Oct. 27, however, when Hickman's three attorneys old of plans for the examination.

Defense Committee Acts. At the same time, Sam Freedman, assistant state's attorney, said that the recently-ormed Hickman Defense Committee had asked the state to drop the murder charge.

Members of the committee said that Hickman was stunned by the tragic deaths of his children and did not realize what he was doing when he shot the landlord.

Fair Trial Pledged. Freedman said that the charge could not be dropped, since the grand jury had voted an indictment, but that every care would be taken to see that Hickman received a fair and impartial trial.

Hickman is accused of shooting David Coleman, 44.

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Stage Stars Join In Hickman Pleas

Tallulah Bankhead joined with other stage stars and several labor leaders yesterday in addressing a mass rally in behalf of James Hickman, who is awaiting trial on a charge of murdering his landlord. One thousand persons attended.

Hickman shot David Coleman, charging that the latter's failure to make repairs on his home had caused a fire which killed four of Hickman's seven children. The Hickman defense committee, which sponsored the rally at the Metropolitan Community Church, collected \$517 as a defense fund for Hickman.

Other speakers included Richard Rober, star of "Born Yesterday," Willard Motley, author of the best seller, "Knock On Any Door," Michael Mann, secretary of the Chicago Industrial Union Council (CIO); Sid Lens, director of Building Service Local 329 (A. F. of L.), and Henry McGee, president of the Chicago branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Willoughby Abner, vice-president of the CIO council, was chairman.

planetary to show

Union to aid dad who killed landlord

A union of 39,000 members today pledged its moral and financial aid to James Hickman, 43, who shot and killed the owner of the tenement in which his four children were burned to death last Jan. 16.

The Chicago Council of the Building Service Employees union (AFL) passed a resolution stating "our belief that the real responsibility for the shooting and for Mr. Hickman's plight is the terrible housing situation in the city of Chicago."

The council authorized its executive board to make a financial contribution to the Hickman Defense committee, 4619 South Park Way. It did not specify its size.

Hickman shot and fatally wounded David Coleman, 24, 2720 Prairie, the tenement owner, who had been fined \$125 after the disastrous fire by Judge Gibson E. Gorman. Hickman, employed by a steel company, told the coroner's jury that his family "lived like rats in a hole," lacking water, gas and electricity.

Landlord death trial scheduled

James Hickman today was scheduled for trial in Criminal Court on a charge of murdering his landlord, David Coleman, last Jan. 16 after Hickman's four children burned to death in his flat at 1733 Washburne av.

The CIO-Chicago Industrial Union Council is raising defense funds. Release of Hickman was demanded yesterday by an assemblage in the Metropolitan Community church, 4100 South Park Way. Among the speakers were Tallulah

CIO council to aid killer of landlord

6/10/47

The Chicago Industrial Union Council (CIO) was officially on record today as supporting the defense of James Hickman, charged with fatally wounding his landlord.

A committee, headed by Vice-President Willoughby Abner of the council, was named to raise funds for Hickman's defense. The defendant shot the landlord, David Coleman, after four Hickman children were burned to death in a one-room attic flat.

Hickman will go on trial Sept. 29. A rally will be held the day before at Metropolitan Community church, 4100 S. Parkway.

Fire 'avenger' freed

James Hickman, 43, who killed the owner of a tenement where his four children died in a fire, was given two years probation today.

Criminal Judge Rudolph Desort took the action after Hickman pleaded guilty to manslaughter, the charge being reduced from murder. Asst. State's Atty. Samuel Freidman approved, saying:

"The state feels this man has paid enough with the loss of his children."

They were killed last Jan. 16 in a fire at 1733 Washburne Ave. Hickman shot and killed the landlord, David Coleman, 25, July 16. A jury was deadlocked recently when Hickman was tried on a murder charge.

WINS PROBATION

James Hickman, 47, Negro, charged with the murder of his former landlord following a fire Jan. 16 in his attic apartment at 1733 Washburne av. in which four of his children perished, was placed on probation for two years yesterday after he pleaded guilty to a charge of manslaughter. The original murder charge was reduced by agreement with the state. Judge Rudolph F. Desort in Criminal court allowed probation after the state agreed. The landlord, David Coleman, 24, was slain July 16. A previous trial on the murder charge resulted in a hung jury.

DAD OF FIRE VICTIMS GIVEN PROBATION IN SLAYING OF LANDLORD

James Hickman, 47, Negro, was placed on probation for two years yesterday by Judge Rudolph F. Desort in Criminal court on a plea of guilty to manslaughter in the fatal shooting of his landlord,

David Coleman, 24, on July 16 after a fire in Hickman's apartment at 1733 Washburne av. in which four Hickman children perished.

He originally was charged with murder but the charge was reduced by agreement with Assistant State's Atty. Samuel Freedman. A previous trial on the murder charge was declared a mistrial when the jury failed to reach a verdict after 19 hours of deliberation. Freedman joined Hickman's defense attorneys in requesting Judge Desort to grant probation. He said he had received thousands of letters asking that Hickman be given leniency.

Altho all the testimony at yesterday's hearing was stipulated at the previous trial, Hickman had charged that Coleman set the fire on purpose to oust Hickman.